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WRITER'S NUMBER (703) 812-

June 3, 1997

BY HAND DELIVERY

Mr. William F. Caton **Acting Secretary** Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222 Washington, D.C. 20554

Re:

MM Docket No. 97-107

RM-9023

Potts Camp and Saltillo, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Caton:

ANN BAVENDER

ANNE GOODWIN CRUMP*

VINCENT J. CURTIS, JR.

RICHARD J. ESTEVEZ

PAUL J. FELDMAN*

RICHARD HILDRETH

ANDREW S. KERSTING

KATHRYN A. KLEIMAN EUGENE M. LAWSON, JR.

ERIC FISHMAN*

FRANK B JAZZO

HARRY C. MARTIN

J. TODD METCALF

GEORGE PETRUTSAS

LEONARD R. RAISH

KATHLEEN VICTORY

HOWARD M. WEISS

'NOT ADMITTED IN VIRGINIA

JAMES P. RILEY

Transmitted herewith, on behalf of Olvie E. Sisk, licensee of Station WCNA(FM), Potts Camp, Mississippi, are an original and four copies of his "Reply Comments" in the abovereferenced proceeding to reallot Channel 240C3 from Potts Camp to Saltillo, Mississippi, and modify the license of WCNA(FM) to specify the new community.

Should any questions arise concerning this matter, please communicate with the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

FLETCHER, HEALD & HILDRETH, P.L.C.

Anne Goodwin Crump Counsel for Olvie E. Sisk

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd_ List ABCDE

BEFORE THE

Jederal	Communications	Commission	MEGA
	WASHINGTON D.C. 205	554	Jlin

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In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Section 73.202(b),)	MM DOCKET NO. 97-107
Table of Allotments,)	RM-9023
FM Broadcast Stations)	
Potts Camp and Saltillo, Mississippi)	

Chief, Allocations Branch Directed to:

REPLY COMMENTS

Olvie E. Sisk, licensee of Station WCNA(FM), which operates on Channel 240C3 at Potts Camp, Mississippi, hereby respectfully submits his Reply Comments with regard to the "Comments and Counterproposal of Broadcasters & Publishers, Inc.," submitted May 19, 1997, in the above-captioned proceeding. With respect thereto, the following is submitted:

- 1. In its Comments and Counterproposal, Broadcasters and Publishers, Inc. ("B&P") opposes the proposal set forth in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, DA 97-590, released March 28, 1997, that the license for WCNA(FM) be modified to specify operation on Channel 240C3 at Saltillo, Mississippi, in lieu of Potts Camp. B&P also proposes that Channel 275C3 be allotted to Saltillo as its first local service. This proposal is contingent upon the move of its own station, WWKZ(FM), from New Albany to Como, Mississippi.
- 2. The primary basis on which B&P opposes the proposed relocation of WCNA(FM) is its claim that Potts Camp remains a viable community, and the removal of WCNA(FM) to Saltillo would disrupt the only local service to Potts Camp. The factual foundation of B&P's

claims is flawed at best, however.

- 3. In his Comments, Sisk demonstrated that the community of Potts Camp has declined to the point that it is no longer worthy of community status. Its population has declined rather than grown. B&P questioned Sisk's population figures and provided a Declaration from its Vice-President, Jeffrey H. Shaw. That Declaration describes a conversation with Potts Camp town clerk, Marie Tate, during which she allegedly estimated that the current population of Potts Camp is 525. As set forth in the attached declaration of Ms. Tate, however, she is unaware of any population estimates later than those of the 1990 Census, which placed the population of Potts Camp at 483. See Exhibit 1. Thus, it appears that Mr. Shaw's description of his conversation with Ms. Tate may not be entirely accurate.
- 4. B&P also attempts to show a few other instances in which Sisk's statements in his "Comments" were not supported by the facts. A comparison of Sisk's statements with the "facts" as set forth by B&P shows no inconsistency, however, but merely a difference in emphasis. For example, while Sisk stated that Potts Camp has no doctors based there but only one that visits one day per week, B&P counters that Potts Camp has a medical clinic and pharmacy. In point of fact, Potts Camp does have a medical clinic, but a medical doctor is present at that clinic only one-half day per week. See Exhibit 1. Thus, there is no discrepancy between the two statements. Likewise, while Sisk stated that there are no more than ten businesses in Potts Camp, B&P claims that there are at least ten businesses there. Clearly, therefore, there is agreement that the number of businesses in Potts Camp is close to ten. Further, while Mr. Shaw makes reference to a used car lot as one of the businesses in Potts Camp, that establishment is now closed.

- 5. Ms. Tate's declaration also clarifies that there is only part-time police protection in Potts Camp. While there is one full-time policeman, and one other policeman who fills in part-time, those two officers cannot even come close to covering all the hours in the day, seven days per week. Assuming that the part-time officer works half-time, 20 hours per week, then Potts Camp would have police protection during only 60 of the 168 total hours in the week, or 35.7 percent of the time. Obviously, this lack of one of the most basic governmental services during 64.3 percent of the time is not indicative of a thriving community but rather illustrates the decline of Potts Camp.
- 6. Moreover, Potts Camp has shown that it does not and cannot support its own local station. As previously stated, in the entire time that WCNA(FM) has been on the air, not one Potts Camp business has purchased any advertising time on the station. While Mr. Shaw states in his declaration that Ms. Tate was confident that Potts Camp businesses would purchase advertising on a Potts Camp station, Ms. Tate herself states in her declaration that she doubts whether more than one of the businesses located there could even afford radio advertising. Ms. Tate bases her opinion on her knowledge of the sales tax receipts from each of the businesses.
- 7. Further supporting Ms. Tate's conclusion is a survey conducted by Sisk. A copy of the survey results is attached hereto as Exhibit 2. That survey shows that of twelve commercial and service establishments in and around Potts Camp, only three plan to purchase any radio advertising on any station. Among these, two plan to spend only \$200 to \$500 during the year, while one plans to spend \$500 to \$1,000 during the year on radio advertising. Thus, business and service establishments in and around Potts Camp plan to spend no more than \$2,000 on any radio advertising for an entire year. Obviously, this tiny amount of advertising could hardly support

the operation of radio station for a year. It is also significant to note that all three of the businesses which state that they might buy radio advertising during the next twelve months have previously used radio advertising, but none of them purchased any time on WCNA(FM). Clearly, therefore, the three Potts Camp businesses who might advertise do not regard WCNA(FM) as an important local radio outlet. Moreover, nine of the establishments surveyed (75 percent) have no plans to advertise on any radio station. The lack of any local interest in, or support for, WCNA(FM) as a local Potts Camp station is therefore quite evident.

- 8. Additionally, it is clear that Potts Camp is simply unable to support its own local station. As stated by Ms. Tate, local sales tax receipts demonstrate that the overwhelming majority of businesses simply do not have enough income to purchase radio advertising.

 Further, the few businesses in Potts Camp are, for the most part, in a state of decline. Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 are photographs taken during late May, 1997, which show the run-down condition of the establishments in Potts Camp. These photographs clearly depict a small community which has declined to the point that it can be considered no more than a quiet village, and therefore not deserving of community status for allotment purposes. Accordingly, in view of the opportunity to provide the thriving community of Saltillo with its first local service, while at the same time serving many more people as demonstrated in Sisk's "Comments," the proposed re-location of WCNA(FM) to Potts Camp would serve the public interest.
- 9. Furthermore, while B&P has titled its filing "Comments and Counterproposal," it is unacceptable as a counterproposal on two counts. First, the Saltillo allotment proposed by B&P does not conflict in any way with Sisk's proposed re-location of WCNA(FM) to Saltillo. There is nothing which would prevent the Commission from making both allotments as requested. The

very definition of a counterproposal involves a conflict between two proposals. B&P's suggested allotment is completely consistent with Sisk's proposal, however. The Commission could reallot Channel 240C3 to Saltillo as its first local transmission service and could also allot Channel 275C3 as its second local and first competing transmission service. Since there is no mutual exclusivity between the two proposals, B&P's filing cannot be accepted as a counterproposal and must be dismissed.

- 10. A second, independent reason requiring the dismissal of B&P's "counterproposal" is the fact that the proposed allotment of Channel 275C3 is not yet timely. As indicated in the FM Separation Study attached to B&P's "Comments and Counterproposal," the proposed allotment of Channel 275C3 to Saltillo is short-spaced to the currently licensed site for B&P's station WWKZ(FM). While B&P has a construction permit to re-locate WWKZ(FM) from New Albany to Como, Mississippi, the new facilities have not yet been built, and the Commission's records show that no license application has been filed. Significantly, B&P did not even make any representation about the status of construction of the modified facility. Attached hereto is a photograph depicting the new WWKZ(FM) transmitter site authorized in its construction permit. See Exhibit 3. This photograph shows no signs that any construction of the new facilities has even begun.
- 11. The Commission has enunciated a policy of not accepting petitions for rule making contingent on the licensing of facilities in an outstanding construction permit. <u>Cut and Shoot,</u>

 <u>Texas,</u> 11 FCC Rcd 16383 (M.Med.Bur. 1996). As pointed out by the Commission, the facilities authorized in a number of outstanding construction permits are never built and licensed. <u>Id.</u> at 16384. Proposed facilities modifications may be either abandoned or further modified. Based

upon this uncertainty factor, the Commission has determined that it will not accept petitions for rule making which rely upon modifications authorized by construction permits but not yet built. This rationale applies equally to counterproposals in rule making proceedings. B&P's proposed allotment is contingent upon the completion of the as yet unbuilt new facilities for WWKZ(FM) to achieve proper spacing. Absent the relocation of the WWKZ(FM) transmitter site, which is not yet even under construction, B&P's counterproposal is unacceptable due to short-spacing. Accordingly, B&P's counterproposal must be dismissed as prematurely filed.

12. In sum, the proposed reallotment of Channel 240C3 from Potts Camp to Saltillo would provide the growing community of Saltillo with it first local transmission service and would allow station WCNA(FM) to serve 79 percent more people. Significantly, as shown in Sisk's Comments, Potts Camp will continue to receive many aural services. In addition, WCNA(FM)'s proposed coverage area from Saltillo is less well-served than is the coverage area from WCNA(FM)'s present Potts Camp-licensed transmitter site. Clearly, these benefits would serve the public interest. B&P's "Comments and Counterproposal" is based upon a flawed understanding of the facts concerning Potts Camp. Further, the counterproposal portion of its filing is subject to dismissal in that it is not a true counterproposal and is filed prematurely.

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, Sisk respectfully requests that Channel 240C3 be reallotted from Potts Camp to Saltillo, Mississippi, and that the license for WCNA(FM) be modified to specify operation at Saltillo, Mississippi.

Respectfully submitted,

OLVIE E. SISK

By:

Frank R. Jazzo

Anne Goodwin Crump

His Attorneys

FLETCHER, HEALD & HILDRETH, P.L.C. 1300 North 17th Street Eleventh Floor Rosslyn, Virginia 22209 (703) 812-0400

June 3, 1997

agc/#93/repcmnt.gs

EXHIBIT 1

DECLARATION

I, Marie Tate, hereby declare and state as follows:

I am the town clerk for both Potts Camp and Myrtle, Mississippi. I work for Potts Camp in the morning and for Myrtle in the afternoon. As town clerk for Potts Camp, I am familiar with statistics concerning the town and with the sales tax receipts from businesses in the town. I have been in my position as town clerk for Potts Camp for a little over one year.

On May 23, 1997, I spoke by telephone with Gene Sisk and with Frank R. Jazzo, his attorney. Messrs. Sisk and Jazzo informed me of the contents of a Declaration signed by Jeffrey H. Shaw. I had previously spoken with Mr. Shaw on the telephone as well. When he called, he did not inform me of his connection with WWKZ(FM), of the true purpose of his call, or of the use which he planned to make of the information that I provided to him. Rather, he simply indicated that he was taking a survey.

As to the information provided, I do not agree with the figure of 525 persons as an estimate of the current population of Potts Camp. I am not familiar with any official estimate of the population of Potts Camp since the 1990 U.S. Census, which found the population to be 483.

Potts Camp has some ten small businesses. Based on my knowledge of each business's sales tax receipts, I believe that only one of those businesses could possibly afford to advertise. In my opinion, the remaining businesses simply do not generate enough income to be able to afford radio advertising.

The town of Potts Camp does not have a supermarket. Rather, it has only one small grocery store and a convenience store with gas pumping facilities. While Potts Camp does have a medical clinic, with a portion of the clinic set off as a pharmacy, there is a Doctor present at the clinic only one half day per week. There are no dentists and no other medical facilities in Potts Camp.

Potts Camp has part time police protection, with one full time policeman working forty hours per week and another police that fills in part time.

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated this 29th day of May, 1997.

Marie Tate



First, we need to know the name of your business.
La-Vogue Beauty Solon
In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on radio advertising? Yes No
If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00
\$ 200 to \$ 500.00
\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
\$ 1000 or more
Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$
This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding.
Signed by Luxa Bymum
Signed by Luxa Bynum Your title <u>Reautician</u>
Date Signed $5/23/97$

First, we need to know the name of your business. \mathcal{S}_{1}
Som Package Signer Store
In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on radio advertising? Yes No
If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00
\$ 200 to \$ 500.00
\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
\$ 1000 or more
Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$
This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding.
Signed by Martha S. Cook
Your title <u>Ocune</u>
Date Signed 5-23-97

First, we need to know the name of your business.
In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on radio advertising? Yes No
If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00
\$ 200 to \$ 500.00
\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
\$ 1000 or more
Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$
This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding.
Signed by Alme a Cool
Your title CHB Inc.
Date Signed 5-23-97

First, we need to know the name of your business.
In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on radio advertising? Yes No
If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00
\$ 200 to \$ 500.00
\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
\$ 1000 or more
Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$ 7
This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding. Signed by Naph Munning Your title Owner
Date Signed 5-23-87

We're conducting a survey to determine how many advertising dollars are being spent on advertising in Potts Camp. Specifically, how many dollars do you plan to spend on radio advertising? First, we need to know the name of your business. In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any_money on radio advertising? Yes _____ No ____ If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning. \$ to \$ 50.00 _____ 0 Ś 50 to \$ 100.00 to \$ 200.00 _____ \$ 100

Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$

This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding.

Signed by Nandy Dulfer

Your title <u>Daughter</u>

Date Signed <u>5-23-97</u>

to \$ 500.00

to \$ 1000.00

or more

200

500

\$ 1000

first, we need to know the name of your business.
Churchtes Frocerus
In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on radio advertising? Yes No
If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00
\$ 200 to \$ 500.00
\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
\$ 1000 or more
Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$
This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding.
Signed by O herediell Ison
Your title Muner
Date Signed 71/or 23

First, we need to know the name of your business.
gams Josef Cerció
In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on radio advertising? Yes No
If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00
\$ 200 to \$ 500.00
\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
\$ 1000 or more
Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$
This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding.
Signed by Falmer & Sparl
Your titleManager
Date Signed 5/23/91

First, we need to know the name of your business.
In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on radio advertising? Yes No
If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00
\$ 200 to \$ 500.00
\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
\$ 1000 or more
Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$
This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding
Signed by Duly
Your title Steplest
Date Signed May 23-97

First, we need to know the name of your business.
Cardinal Violey
In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on radio advertising? Yes No
If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00
\$ 200 to \$ 500.00
\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
\$ 1000 or more
Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$
This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding.
Signed by Lavene Hunsuclow
Your title Aller
Date Signed 5-23-97

· ·
First, we need to know the name of your business.
Potts CAMP BANK
In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on
radio advertising? Yes No No
If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00
\$ 200 to \$ 500.00 V
\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
\$ 1000 or more
Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$
This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding.
Signed by
Your title YP- MgC
Date Signed 5-23-97

radio advertising?
First, we need to know the name of your business. Potts Camp Family Pharmacy
In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on radio advertising? Yes No
If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00 A year 1/1/ Server
\$ 100 to \$ 200.00 A year \$ \$ 200 to \$ 500.00 A year \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$
\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
\$ 1000 or more
Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
\$ 50 as A Month
This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding.
Signed by Steve Barnett
Your title Co-QWNER
Date Signed $5-30-97$

_	First, we need to know the name of your business.
	In Ase Woodward, Smase Cernos/Restaurant Ticko Rentry - Proposición Sves
1	licks Really - trajectional Sves
	In the next 12 months, do you plan to spend any money on radio advertising? Yes No
	If the answer is yes, please check the amount below that is appropriate to your planning.
	\$ 0 to \$ 50.00
	\$ 50 to \$ 100.00
	\$ 100 to \$ 200.00
	\$ 200 to \$ 500.00
	\$ 500 to \$ 1000.00
	\$ 1000 or more
	Have you ever used radio advertising since you've been in business at this location? Yes No
	If the answer is yes, how much did you spend per month?
	\$ 300 aug.
	This survey will be used in an F.C.C. Rule Making Proceeding.
	Signed by
	Your title Duner - President
	Date Signed 5/a3/97
	•

EXHIBIT 3

